

November 8, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Editorial: Michigan GOP's court shake-up bill is an affront to the rule of law

"Gov. Rick Snyder is poised to sign a bill that would funnel most lawsuits against his administration to a tiny, handpicked group of Republican judges."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: WSU professor calls court shake-up bill 'bad policy'

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: House votes to move Michigan lawsuits

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Supreme Court to take up issue of parole for juvenile lifers

"The Michigan Supreme Court will schedule oral arguments on whether juveniles who received a life-without-parole sentence before they turned 18 should get a chance at parole.... The Michigan Supreme Court, in an order issued Thursday, ordered the court clerk to schedule oral arguments on whether that ruling should apply retroactively, which could allow parole hearings for more than 300 juveniles currently serving life sentences."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Monroe Evening News: Michigan Supreme Court Adds Juvenile Lifers To Docket

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Michigan Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Juvenile Lifer Cases

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Judge Berry to preside over MSU Law School's swearing-in ceremony

"Third Circuit Court Judge Annette Jurkiewicz Berry, will preside over Michigan State University College of Law's Swearing-In Ceremony of new Bar members, on Nov. 11 at 6 p.m., in East Lansing.... Berry is a graduate of the University of Michigan and received her Juris Doctorate from the Michigan State University Law School, formerly the Detroit College of Law."

[Full story](#)

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: Former Cooley board member honored by State Bar of Michigan

"Former Cooley Law School Board Member, the Hon. Donna T. Morris, has been honored by the State Bar of Michigan with the Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award. Morris, a 1977 graduate of Cooley, is a retired Midland County Probate Court judge."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Retired Justice Kelly talks about dark money in judicial races

" 'When the workings of our government are kept secret from us, we become uncomfortable and suspicious. One big and important secret is where three-quarters of the money being spent on Michigan Supreme Court elections comes from. We have a right to know exactly how much is being spent and who's spending it.' These words, delivered in a measured way by former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Marilyn Kelly, outline the challenge posed to democracy by the policy of allowing certain campaign money to be undisclosed."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Legal News: Supreme Court imposes new duty on landlords

"In the 2001 case of MacDonald v PKT, Inc, 464 Mich. 322 (2001), the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that merchants have a limited duty to contact the police in situations where there is a risk of imminent and foreseeable harm to an identifiable invitee. In a recent split decision, Bailey v Schaff, 494 Mich. 595 (2013), the Court extended this limited duty to landlords."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Judge sentences medical marijuana dispensary owner, says law is 'one of the worst'

"Even as he sentenced a Grand Rapids medical marijuana dispensary owner to probation, a Kent County judge called the state medical marijuana law 'one of the worst statutes that was ever written and put into place.' David Overholt earlier pleaded no contest to delivery or manufacture of marijuana and on Thursday, Nov. 7, he was sentenced to two years of probation, a \$1,000 fine and 150 hours of community service."

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: The future of mental health courts in Michigan

"The Michigan state House approved a package of bills that could lead to more mental health courts around the state. Now the omnibus bill is being sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee.... One champion of the mental health courts is Judge Milton Mack, the chief probate judge in Wayne County. He explains what's driven him to take on this cause, and what sort of human toll he's seen from the bench."

[Full story](#)

Muskegon Chronicle: Report: Small fire at historic Mason County Courthouse started in attic

"Fire officials responded to a small fire inside the historic Mason County Courthouse late Thursday, Nov. 7 in Ludington, the Mason County Press reported. Emergency personnel were dispatched to the courthouse around 4:45 p.m. for a fire alarm after employees noticed a strong smell of smoke, the Press reported."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Retired judge to receive Pioneer of Justice Award

"Legal Aid and Defender Association Inc. (LAD) has announced that Michael F. Sapala, retired Wayne County Circuit Court judge, is the winner of its 2013 Ed Pokorny Pioneer of Justice Award. The award is one of nine 'Laddys' bestowed on members of the legal community for their pro bono service to LAD clients."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Man held in contempt for wearing hat in court

"A Kent County judge has ordered a man to pay \$100 or spend 10 days in jail for wearing a hat in court. The Grand Rapids Press says Ryan Cameron Lasenby was in Circuit Judge James Robert Redford's courtroom Monday for a friend's sentencing."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Human trafficking report urges new Michigan laws

"Michigan's top law enforcer said Wednesday that the state should treat teenage prostitutes as victims, not criminals, as it works to combat human trafficking. The recommendation to create a 'safe harbor' provision for minors is among many resulting from a six-month review led by the state's first human trafficking commission."

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Update: Judge Willie Lipscomb dies

"Judge Willie Lipscomb, Jr., who served in Michigan's 36th District Court, has died. He was found dead Wednesday in his Detroit home. Lipscomb served as a judge for the past 14 years. He retired in 2012.... Wayne County Prosecutor Kym L. Worthy said Lipscomb is the 'sole reason' she joined the Prosecutor's Office nearly 30 years ago."

[Full story](#)